



Sal Dan secures contract to build public works facility

By NORLYN PURYCH, SPECIAL TO THE STAR

After a second round of bidding, the contract for the construction of a new municipal public works complex has been awarded to Sal Dan Developments, of Sault Ste. Marie.

Its bid was for \$2.9 million on the scaled-down version of the original architectural design.

The lowest of the first set of tenders, opened in January, came in at about twice the budgeted, and grant approved, amount of \$2.3 million.

The time-sensitive stimulus grant upon which the project depends was then given a one-month extension so that the project specs could be trimmed in an attempt to get the cost within manageable reach.

At that time, Mayor Bob Gallagher admitted that, realistically, the municipality may end up having to kick in extra cash in order to get the job done.

Federal and provincial stimulus funding is based on two-thirds of the originally projected cost.

The municipality will partially cover its share of the bill with its share of the federal gas tax fund, \$375,000, but Gallagher warned that debentures would likely be necessary, as well.

The project will relocate all public works facilities from the "downtown core," beside the town hall, to the former mill yard near the community centre and marine park.